

1991-04-25

Boston University Medical Center: April 25, 1991

<https://hdl.handle.net/2144/26541>

Boston University



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Department of Public Relations

Office of Media Relations

80 East Concord Street
Robinson 7 (B-7)
Boston, MA 02118-2393
(617) 638-8491
Fax: (617) 638-8044

April 25, 1991

Dear Member of the Media,

An increased recognition of the effects of occupational hazards on human health, coupled with increased litigation and wider regulatory efforts have resulted in a considerable expansion in the field of occupational medicine.

The largest occupational health meeting in the world, the annual American Occupational Health Conference (AOHC), will be held in San Francisco April 27, through May 3, 1991. Robert J. McCunney, M.D., the clinical director of the Occupational Health Program at the University Hospital at Boston University Medical Center, an assistant professor of public health at Boston University School of Public Health, and corporate medical director for the Cabot Corporation in Boston, will make three presentations at the meeting.

Here are brief descriptions of his presentations:

- "Introduction to Occupational Medicine"--Although occupational medicine has been a discipline since 1954, a considerable shortage of well-trained and certified specialists in this field still exists. According to McCunney, many physicians enter the field either in mid-career or on a part-time basis without undergoing residency training in occupational medicine, which McCunney says is the best way to achieve competency. This day-long presentation will introduce the basic principles of occupational medicine and the issues confronting physicians who handle occupational medicine problems. This presentation will take place on Saturday, April 27, 1991 from 1-5 p.m.

- "Medical Ethics in Private Occupational Medicine Practices"--Occupational medicine has its own unique ethical dilemmas. McCunney will examine several of these dilemmas including: to whom the occupational physician ultimately is responsible--employee patient or employer; what to do when corporate practice adversely affects employee health; confidentiality as it pertains to the release of medical information obtained as a result of a pre-placement evaluation or an independent medical examination. This presentation will take place on April 29, starting at 1:30 p.m.

- "Publishing in Occupational Medicine"--McCunney, the editor of the Handbook of Occupational Medicine, will describe a study that evaluated the impact of occupational medicine on general medical practice. The study indicated a three fold increase during the past ten years of the number of articles published dealing with occupational medicine, which suggests a more active specialty. This presentation will take place on May 2, starting at 1:30 p.m.

If you are interested in any of the presentations or would like to interview the researcher, please give me or Betty Russell a call at (617) 638-8491.

Sincerely,

Gina DiGravio

Boston University Medical Center